

# Encountering Our Communities

---

The writers of the essays in this section explore their encounters with people and places in and around our California communities. For example, after studying writing in ENGL 134, Chun Hui Pek rethinks the rules of writing he was taught in high school. On the other hand, Erin Vickerman redefines her previous understanding of the local Amtgard group, while Liliana Cervantes argues that we need to do more about gang violence in California. While exploring their own previously held understandings of different communities, these authors compel us to rethink our own cultural roles. As you read, think about the ways you encounter your world and the people who inspire you to rethink your understanding of the environments you encounter.



This image offers readers a new perspective of a familiar location on campus. Do you recognize this space? Are there any visual clues to help you? Does the empty seat invite you to situate yourself within this setting? Does the title of the photograph, *and the sun came out after a week of rain*, reveal any information about this location? Next time you step into Kennedy Library, perhaps you, too, can encounter the sun from this perspective.



The vibrant colors in this photograph help convey a specific focus and tone. After examining the image, consider how a photographer selects which colors play a dominant role in the moments she captures. For instance, the stop sign is a focal point in part because of its positioning in the photo, but also because of its color. Immediately behind the stop sign, we again see the color red reinforced by the truck. Where do the colors lead your eyes next?